

Utilization of E-Resources of the Faculty, Staff Members and Students of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam

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Abstract - Intellectual activities Therefore, most of the universities in our country have started investing profusely to provide better service to their library users through easy access of e-resources for the advancement of learning and teaching and research activities. Agricultural College and Research Nowadays E-resources have essentially become part and parcel of higher education in its entire Institute, Killikulam also has provided quality e-resources for the access of its library users with all required infrastructures. The present study explores the availability of different e-resources, awareness of e-resources, the impediments encountered at the time of accessing the e-resources and the objectives of utilization of e-resources in Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam.

Keywords: E-Resources, Online Databases, E-Magazines, E-Books

users are provided with reprographic service also. The entire operations of the library including transaction of books, journals, thesis and educational CDs have been digitalized. The classification and cataloguing of the new resources added to library collection have been computerized. Books, journals and other information resources have been systematically arranged in their respective shelves. The library users are provided with the online public access catalogue (OPAC) that enables to search by any combination of author, title, subject/ keyword, date or format. The library users are able meet their specific information needs by means of a word-based search facility using Boolean operators. They can find the materials checked out to them as well as reserve materials being in circulation presently.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the recent decades, the revolution in Information and Technology has been making great impact and radical changes in every aspect of human life. The advancement in Communication and Information and Technology has paved way for making the library users closer to information in a more user friendly atmosphere of gathering, storing, organizing, accessing and retrieving information. The advent of computers and internet has made the library services most effective in delivering the information to the user community. In the institution of higher education, library plays a key role in all intellectual activities as a centre of information and intellectual resources. Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam has facilitated more e-resources in its collection to promote teaching, learning and research activities in a more efficacious and constructive way.

II. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The College Library operates in a separate building in the campus with the collection of 15,370 text and reference books, 17 national journals, 948 back volumes and 251 theses along with digital section of online, remote access e-resources and audio/video digital CDs to render library services to agricultural students and scientists. The Library provides services to the users including students and scientists from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm. It also offers book lending service to home reading for 14 days. The library

III. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study are furnished as follows

1. To find out the awareness of e-resources among the users of the library of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam.
2. To explore the preference to use e-resources by library users besides printed reading materials.
3. To bring out the purposes of accessing e-resources by the library users.
4. To identify the accessing points where the library users access e-resources from and
5. To know how often the library users access e-resources to seek information.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The present study has been undertaken employing survey method through administering questionnaires to students, staff members and faculties. Out of 165 questionnaires distributed among the library users, 150 filled in valid questionnaires were received back. The present study has been undertaken based on the data collected from the respondents through these questionnaires.

V. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature pertaining to the present study is briefly reviewed here under:

Ahmad and Panda (2013) asserts that majority of the faculty members are aware of using all e-resources but some are confined to only use the library's specific resources such as e-theses, patents and CD-ROM databases. Therefore, awareness and promotion of e-resources are highly essential to achieve full utilization by end-users.

Bhatt and Rana (2011) identifies that the most common problems with e-resources are low speed connectivity, lack of awareness about statutory provision for accessing e-resources by the institutions, technical problems, unavailability of sufficient e-resources, doubts in permanency, high purchase price and lack of legal provision.

Egberongbe (2011) affirms that e-resources such as bibliographic databases, e-newspapers and e-magazines are not used very much. Undoubtedly, lack of awareness of information resource prevents users from realizing its potentials of meeting their information needs. The study shows that necessary steps should be taken by information professionals or librarians to ensure maximum use of e-resources by library users.

Kwafoa *et al.*, (2014) reveals that faculty and administrators also are not completely aware of the library's online databases. In the light of the study, relentless promotional and marketing efforts should be taken by library professionals to ensure maximum and efficient use of electronic information resources by users.

Shukla and Mishra (2011) observe that research scholars prefer to use e-resources to print resources and e-resource are used frequently on daily or weekly basis.

VI. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The data presented below reveals that a majority of the respondents (90.67%) are aware of e-resources whereas

some of them (9.33%) are not familiar with e-resources. Though it is a good sign to know that a considerable number of library users are aware of e-resources and usage, the library professionals should take necessary steps to make awareness on e-resources and their usage through regular orientation programmes among the users of library in order to optimize them towards the wholesome utilization of e-resources.

TABLE I AWARENESS OF E-RESOURCES

Respondents	Total	Yes	No
Faculties	46	42	-
UG Students	50	45	9
PG Students	54	49	5
Total	150	136(90.67%)	14(9.33%)

Source: Primary Data

TABLE II PREFERENCE TO USE E-RESOURCES BESIDES PRINTED DOCUMENTS

Respondents	Total	Yes	No
Faculties	44	42	2
PG Students	50	47	3
UG Students	56	50	6
Total	150	139(92.67%)	11(7.34%)

Source: Primary Data

Table II shows the preference to use e-resources besides printed materials by the library users. It is understood that library users prefer e-resources to printed resources of information owing to flexibility, speed of access-way of distribution and utilization by multiple users. Out of 150 valid responses, 139 respondents constituting 92.67 % give preference to e-resources apart from print resources. The data elucidates that it is highly essential to have plenty of e-resources in addition to existing print resources.

TABLE III PURPOSE OF ACCESSING E-RESOURCES

S. No.	Purpose of accessing e-resources	Faculties	P.G. Students	U.G. Students	Total	Percentage
1	For assignments and Seminars	-	10	06	16	10.67
2	For Research Projects	14	7	-	21	14.00
3	To seek information in specialized areas	13	12	20	45	30.00
4	For Career Development	2	22	2	26	17.33
5	To keep updating	05	17	20	42	28.00
6	Total				150	100.00

Source: Primary Data

The data shown in the Table III reveals the purpose of accessing e-resources by library users. Out of 150 respondents, 16 library users (10.67%) access e-resources for assignments and seminars followed by 21 respondents (14%) seeking e-resources for research projects, 45

respondents (30%) seeking e-resources to know more about their area of specialization, 26 respondents (17.33%) seeking e-resources for career development and 42 respondents (28%) seeking e-resources for updating themselves.

TABLE IV ACCESSING POINT OF E-RESOURCES

S. No.	Access Points	Faculties	P.G. Students	U,G. students	Total	Percentage
1	Informatics Centre	4	20	16	40	26.67
2	Departments	22	8	6	36	24.00
3	Cyber Cafe	2	12	18	32	21.33
4	College Hostel	-	8	12	20	13.33
5	Home	15	4	3	22	14.67
6	Total				150	100.00

Source: Primary Data

The data presented in the Table IV shows where the users of library access e-resources from. It indicates that 40 respondents (26.67%) access e-resources from information centre or computer laboratory followed by 36 respondents (24%) from Departments, 32 respondents (21.33%) from Cyber Cafe, 20 respondents (13.33%) from College hostel

and 22 respondents (14.67%) from their home. The data reveals that students mostly access e-resources from computer lab followed by cyber Cafe and College hostels whereas the faculties access e-resources from mostly from Departments followed by their homes.

TABLE V FREQUENCY OF USE OF E-RESOURCES

S. No.	Frequency	Faculties	P.G. Students	U.G. Students	Total	Percentage
1	Once in a day	23	26	11	60	40.00
2	Twice or thrice in a week	13	16	19	48	32.00
3	Once in a week	-	7	4	11	07.33
4	Twice or thrice in a month	-	-	5	5	03.33
5	Every now and then	4	10	12	26	17.34
6	Total				150	100.00

Source: Primary Data

The data given in the Table V shows how often the library users access e-resources for seeking information. The study reveals that 60 respondents (40%) access e-resources once in a day followed by 48 respondents (32%) accessing e-resources twice or thrice in a week, 26 respondents (17.34%) accessing e-resources every now and then, 11 respondents (7.33%) accessing e-resources once in a week and only 5 respondents accessing e-resources twice or thrice in a month. It is learnt from the data that a majority of respondents (79.33%) access e-resources at least in a week to seek information whereas a considerable number of respondents about 20.67% access e-resources twice or thrice in a month or every now and then.

VII. FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

In the present study, the analysis of data helps us derive the following findings and suggestions:

1. A majority of respondents (90.67%) using the library in Agricultural College and Research Institute are aware of e- resources.
2. A majority of respondents (92.67%) give preference to e-resources in addition to print resources.
3. A majority of respondents (58%) seek information through e-resources to keep updating themselves in their area of interest and other fields.
4. A majority of respondents (94%) access e-resources from Information Centre, Cyber Cafe and their homes.

5. A majority of the respondents (79.33%) access e-resources at least once in a week.
6. The library professionals should arrange orientation programmes in creating awareness on e-resources and their importance considering the analysis of the data that show that 9.33% of respondents are unaware of e-resources, 7.34% of respondents give no preference to e-resources besides print resources and 20.67% of respondents access e-resources a couple of times in a month or occasionally.
7. The library should increase the number of terminals to enhance the usage more effectively as the students are facing the problems of limited numbers of terminals while accessing the journals.
8. The library professionals should provide its users the facility of accessing the e-journals in print form for those who demand the same for further reference, perusal and study.
9. The library should make ensure the provision of high speed internet without frequent connectivity issues to meet the users' need with utmost user satisfaction.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The provision of electronic information resources in academic libraries has provided extraordinary support to modern teaching, learning and research process in universities and institutions of higher education. Electronic

resources have become well known for the students of this modern digital era in terms of access to knowledge resources for their academic endeavours. Therefore, it is prudent for academic libraries to prioritize e-resources as the major information resources and ensure its effective usage. The library of Agricultural College and Research Institute, Killikulam is being digitized for e-learning aiming to enable students and staff members to access valuable research and study materials from anywhere across the globe. The library has repository of e-resources such as e-books, e-journals (CeRA), e-thesis, Krishikosh, Krishiprabha, Delnet, Commodity India, India Stat and so on.

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